

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 2, 1995

TO: BRIDGE DESIGN PERSONNEL
FROM: Dale F. Loe, Bridge Engineer
SUBJECT: Vertical Clearance for Bridges over Highways

Effective immediately, use the following policy to determine the proper vertical clearance for bridges over highways:

1. Vertical clearance on interstate and arterial highways shall be at least 16 feet (4.9m) over the entire roadway width plus an allowance for future overlays of not less than 6 inches (150mm).
2. Vertical clearance on collector and local highways shall be at least 15 feet (4.6m) over the entire roadway width plus an allowance for future overlays of not less than 6 inches except:
 - If future overlays are not contemplated, the requirement for an allowance for future overlays may be nullified.
 - In some cases, vertical clearance between 14 feet (4.3m) and 15 feet (4.6m), when provided on a local highway at an existing bridge, may be satisfactory.
 - At existing bridge sites where there is a history of collision damage due to vertical clearance being less than 16 feet (4.9m), the vertical clearance shall be at least 16 feet (4.9m).
 - If the roadway is part of an interchange, then vertical clearance shall be 16 feet (4.9m) over the entire roadway width plus an allowance for future overlays of not less than 6 inches (150mm).
3. Vertical clearance on sign supports and pedestrian overpasses shall be in accordance with Section 2.3.3.2 of the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications.

DFL:bw
cc: Assistant Chief Engineer-Design